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1856

Sixty-second Anniversary Celebration
in commemoration of the birth
of the Republican Party

1918

At its birthplace, Bloomington, Illinois
Wednesday, May twenty-ninth
nineteen hundred and eighteen



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
From photograph taken in 1857

THERE were stirring speeches by eloquent leaders, eagerly listened to, and vociferously applauded; but scarcely a man moved from his seat in the convention hall until Mr. Lincoln had been heard. Every one felt the fitness of his making the closing argument and exhortation, and right nobly did he honor their demand. A silence full of emotion filled the assembly, as for a moment before beginning, his tall form stood in commanding attitude on the rostrum, the impressiveness of his theme and the significance of the occasion reflected in his thoughtful and earnest features. The spell of the hour was visibly upon him, and holding his audience in rapt attention, he closed in a brilliant peroration with an appeal to the people to join the Republican standard, to

Come as the winds come, when forests are rended;
Come as the waves come, when navies are stranded.

The influence was irresistible; the audience rose and acknowledged the speaker's power with cheer upon cheer. Unfortunately the speech was never reported; but its effect lives vividly in the memory of all who heard it, and it crowned his right to popular leadership in his own state which thereafter was never disputed.

Nicolay & Hay's History of Abraham Lincoln
about the Anti-Nebraska Convention,
held in Bloomington, May 29, 1856.



MAJOR'S HALL AS IT APPEARED AT THE TIME OF THE
CONVENTION, MAY 29, 1856.

was erected by William Trabue Major, a native of Kentucky, in 1852. The structure was a brick building three stories in height, the top floor being arranged as a hall for public gatherings. The building was partially destroyed by fire in 1872, afterwards being remodeled by the removal of what remained of the third story, and in that condition it stands today.

ON May 29th, 1856, there was held in Major's Hall, in this city, the most memorable meeting of men ever held in Illinois. On that day was born the Republican Party in Illinois; the Party that was to abolish slavery, and has given to this country much of its beneficent legislation.

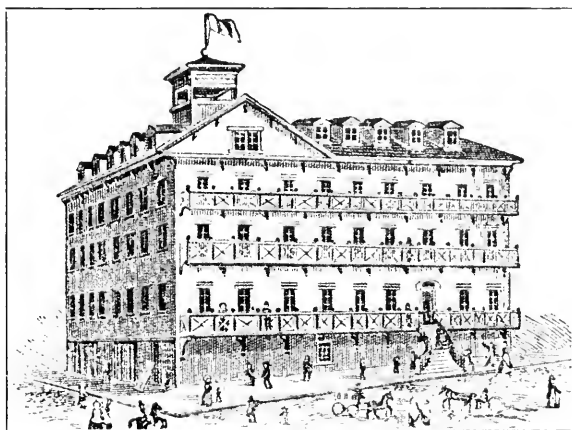
The Bloomington Convention was the outgrowth of a meeting of Anti-Nebraska Editors, held at Decatur, Illinois, on February 22, 1856. At the Decatur meeting, newspaper men of the State, who had become aroused on account of legislation, then pending and proposed, looking to the extension of slavery to some of the Northern states, issued a call for the Bloomington meeting in the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this Convention recommend a State delegate convention to be held on Thursday, the 29th day of May next, in the city of Bloomington, and that the State Central Committee be requested to fix the ratio of representation for that Convention, and take such steps as may seem desirable to bring about a full representation from the whole State."

The basis of representation allowed one delegate from each County for each 6000 of population, and an additional delegate for

each 2000 additional population, Counties having less than 6000 population were entitled to one delegate. The number of delegates entitled to sit in the Convention was 226, but notwithstanding the hardship of travel in that day, many citizens who were not entitled to sit as delegates attended the Convention. In the list of delegates to the Convention are found the names of Owen Lovejoy, John M. Palmer, Richard Yates, Richard Oglesby, Archibald Williams, Orville H. Browning, Norman B. Judd, John Wentworth and many others whose names have since become widely known. It was at this Convention that Abraham Lincoln, then little known, delivered his famous "Lost Speech," and here, if not for the first time, at least before his fame had traveled far, gave proof of his ability to know and state in clear language the wishes of people and the desires of their hearts.

Commemorative of that Convention, and of the Political party that there came into being, this day is celebrated. It is fitting that we here dedicate ourselves, our fortunes and our lives, if need be, as did the men at that Convention, to the end that "Liberty shall not perish from the Earth."



THE PIKE HOUSE.

From the portico of this building Abraham Lincoln addressed the people on the evening of May 28, 1856.



FRANK O. LOWDEN
Governor of Illinois

DEMOCRACY is now on trial.

If it cannot secure a due and orderly government at home, how can it expect to win battles abroad? If any man in any community is guilty of treason, or sedition, or any other crime, there are proper tribunals open for his punishment. They who take the law into their own hands at such a time are helping not our own cause, but that of the enemy. Mob rule is mob rule, whatever disguise it wears.

---FRANK O. LOWDEN.



WESLEY M. JONES

United States Senator from Washington

DINNER

FRUIT COCKTAIL

SWEET PICKLES

GREEN OLIVES

ROAST TURKEY WITH DRESSING

WHIPPED POTATOES

NEW PEAS

HOT ROLLS, JAM

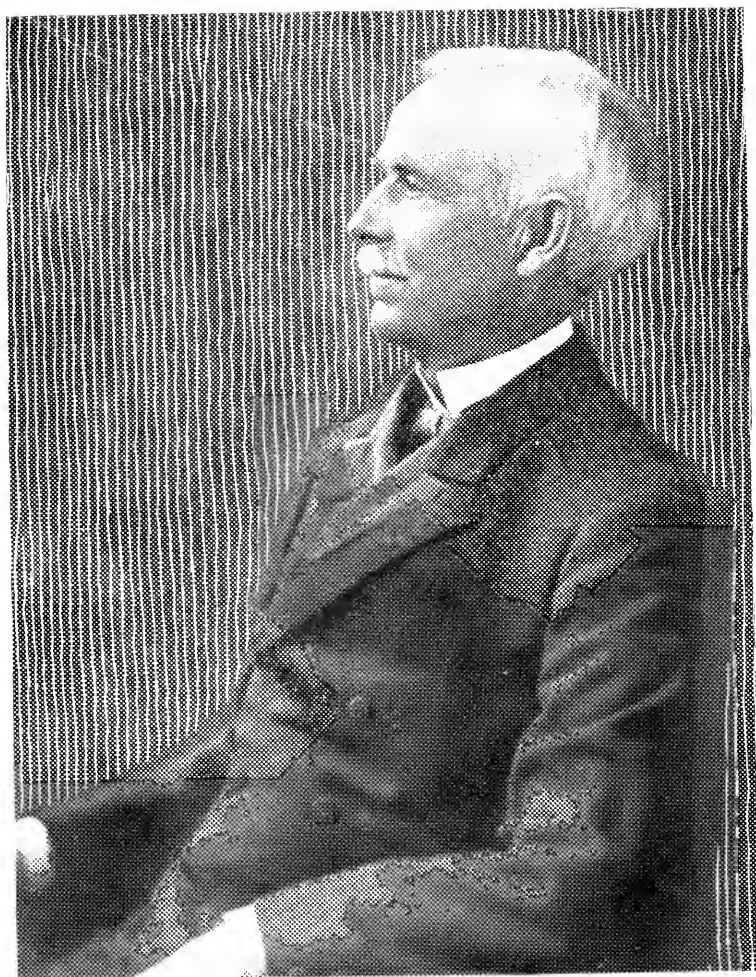
COMBINATION SALAD

ICE CREAM WITH STRAWBERRIES

CORN FLAKE COOKIES

COFFEE

CIGARS



JOSEPH W. FIFER
Ex-Governor of Illinois

After the Dinner



JOSEPH W. FIFER
Ex-Governor of Illinois, Presiding

FRANK O. LOWDEN
Governor of Illinois

WESLEY M. JONES
United States Senator from Washington

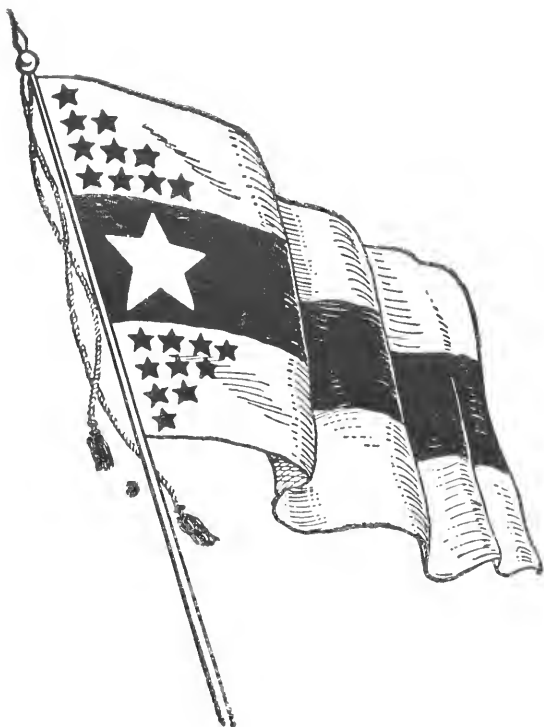
WILL H. HAYES
Chairman Republican National Committee

DALE JAMES
"Illinois"



JOHN A. STERLING

Member of Congress, Seventeenth Congressional District



NOT WITHOUT THY WONDROUS STORY,
ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS,
CAN BE WRIT THE NATION'S GLORY,
ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS,
ON THE RECORD OF THY YEARS
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S NAME APPEARS,
GRANT AND LOGAN AND OUR TEARS,
ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS.



The above is a fac simile of the bronze tablet this day placed by Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the building which was once known as "Major's Hall" at the southwest corner of Front and East streets in Bloomington, Illinois. This tablet marks the site where Lincoln delivered his celebrated "Lost Speech" on May the 29th, 1856.

Programme



Organ voluntary, - - - Prof. O. R. Skinner

Song, America, - - - Audience
Leader, Mrs. O. R. Skinner

Prayer, - - - Rev. A. K. Byrns

Address, - - - Mrs. Matthew T. Scott

Letter from Robert T. Lincoln to the Committee,
- - - Mrs. George W. Monroe

Address, Abraham Lincoln, - Hon. George Edmund Foss

A Boy's Impression of the "Lost Speech," Hon. Charles L. Capen

Abraham Lincoln's Favorite Poem, - Mrs. F. M. Austin
"Oh! why should the spirit of
mortal be proud?"

Song, Battle Hymn of the Republic, - - Audience
Leader, Mrs. O. R. Skinner



At Unveiling of Tablet

Address, History of the "Lost Speech," Mrs. Matthew T. Scott

Unveiling of Tablet, - - - By Elizabeth Davis
Great grand-daughter of Judge David Davis

Presentation of Tablet to the City, - Mrs. Sain Welty

Response, - - - Mayor E. E. Jones

Song, Illinois, - - - Miss Gladys Sims

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



LESTER H. MARTIN, Chairman

Finance: FRANK O. HANSON

Tickets: EGBERT B. HAWK

Decorations: MILTON LIVINGSTON, R. C. BALDWIN

Visiting Delegations: A. W. PEASLEY

Dinner: HEBER J. HUDSON

Resolutions: JAMES C. RILEY

Publicity: H. O. DAVIS

Speakers: JOHN A. STERLING

Music: E. E. JONES

Entertainment and Reservations: WM. SCHMIDT

D. A. R. Lincoln Memorial Tablet: SAIN WELTY

Head Usher: GEORGE C. HEBERLING

Reception: HOMER W. HALL

Printing: JOHN M. SULLIVAN



